

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-01 AID-05 EB-08 ICA-11 COME-00
TRSE-00 OES-07 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /109 W
-----046577 180518Z /20
P 171505Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2056

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FODAG

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, WFC
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FOURTH SESSION

REF: ROME 6696

1. FODAG HAS OBTAINED DRAFT OF LAST TWO DOCUMENTS FOR SUBJECT MEETING. HARRY WALTERS OF WFC WILL HANDCARRY FINAL VERSIONS TO WASHINGTON FOR MEETING APRIL 20-21.

2. OF TWO DOCUMENTS, (A) WFC/1978/5, IMPLEMENTATION OF MANILA COMMUNIQUE, A PROGRAM OF ACTION TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION; AND (B) WFC/1978/5/ADD.1, INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WALTERS HOPES COUNCIL WILL FOCUS ON DOCUMENT A AS IT IS SUMMARY OF "ALL" OTHER DOCUMENTS AND CONTAINS BASIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO WASHINGTON FOR MEETING WITH WALTERS, PORTIONS OF SUMMARY DOCUMENT DEALING WITH FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSAL ARE INCLUDED IN THIS CABLE THOUGH FINAL DOCUMENT MAY BE SOMEWHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFERENT. BEGIN TEXT

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO FASTER PROGRESS

23. THE FOOD COUNCIL, LIKE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, HAS ALREADY CALLED ON DONORS TO INCREASE THEIR ASSISTANCE TO FOOD PRODUCTION AND OPEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO INCREASE

THEIR PRIORITIES FOR FOOD PRODUCTION. THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO REPEAT THESE CALLS AGAIN AND TO RESTATE URGENCY, BUT SUCH CALLS FOR GLOBAL ACTION HAVE PROVED OF LITTLE VALUE SINCE NOVEMBER 1974. OTHER WAYS MUST BE FOUND TO OVER MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND OBSTACLES WHICH AT PRESENT PREVENT DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES FROM WORKING TOGETHER TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND MOBILIZING THE RESOURCES TO DO SO. WHILE THIS NEEDS TO BE ONE WITHIN A GLOBAL CONTEXT, WAYS MUST ALSO BE FOUND TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS AT COUNTRY LEVEL WHICH PERMIT INVESTMENT DECISIONS BE MADE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO OTHER DECISIONS NEEDED TO REMOVE IMPEDIMENTS TO RAPID PROJECT PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION, ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED BY INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL INVESTMENT. THESE TWO EFFORTS NEED TO BE LINKED SO THAT POLITICAL THRUST AT GLOBAL LEVEL SUPPORTS HIGH PRIORITY FOR ACTION AT COUNTRY LEVEL.

24. SOME OF THESE OBSTACLES RELATE TO BROAD POLICY ISSUES AND COUNCIL MAY BE ONLY FORUM IN WHICH THEY CAN BE EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH. MANY OF THEM, HOWEVER, ARE MATTERS OF TECHNICAL PERCEPTION AND NATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES WHICH ONLY COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES CAN RESOLVE. THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS AS WAYS TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS.

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25. AT GLOBAL LEVEL, COUNCIL MIGHT EXPRESS CONCERN TO DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND TO INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY FAO, WORLD BANK, UNDP, IFAD AND REGIONAL BANKS, ABOUT IMPASSE REACHED; BOTH IMPASSE TO INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING FOOD SUPPLY AND NUTRITION CONDITION OF UNDER NOURISHED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE THESE PROBLEMS ARE MOST SEVERE; AND IMPASSE TO MOBILIZATION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO CHANGE SITUATION. IT COULD SUGGEST TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT THEY TAKE MATTER UP ON URGENT BASIS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (DAC) WHERE TRADITIONAL BILATERAL AGENCIES COULD ADDRESS THESE ISSUES AND WHERE THE TECHNICAL CAPACITY OF DAC COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THEM. ISSUES OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE ARE:

- (A) HOW CAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BE INCREASED?
- (B) WHAT ARE CRITICAL IMPEDIMENTS TO DOING SO, BOTH WITHIN BILATERAL COMMUNITY AND WITHIN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?
- (C) HOW CAN GREATER AMOUNTS OF CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED TO COUNTRIES WITH MOST SERIOUS FOOD AND NUTRITION PROBLEMS? AND
- (D) HOW CAN DAC AND ITS BILATERAL AGENCIES DEVELOP AND

SUSTAIN A HIGH PRIORITY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MOST IN NEED, AND LINK THIS TO
MEASURES WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THIS HIGH PRIORITY
IS FELT IN COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS?
26. NO COMPARABLE FORUM EXISTS FOR BRINGING DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES TOGETHER
TO ADDRESS THESE SAME ISSUES. COUNCIL MAY WISH, HOWEVER, TO
CONSIDER SELECTING FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS THREE REGIONAL
WORKING PARTIES FOR AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA (OR AN
ADDITIONAL REGION IF THAT SEEMS APPROPRIATE), THAT COULD
UTILIZE FACILITIES OF ECOSOC REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS,
REGIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE
FORA. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MEMBERS OF BUREAU AND SECRETARIAT
OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL COULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THESE REGIONAL
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WORKING PARTIES TO ADDRESS FOLLOWING ISSUES:

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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /109 W
-----052905 180518Z /14

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FODAG

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(A) HOW CAN PRIORITY FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND
IMPROVING LEVEL OF HUMAN NUTRITION BE EFFECTIVELY RAISED AND
SUSTAINED WITHIN A CONSISTENT DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES?

(B) HOW CAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS BE ACCELERATED, AND WHAT ARE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO DOING SO?

(C) HOW CAN IDENTIFICATION AND PREPARATION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN AREAS OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT BE MORE EFFECTIVELY PRESENTED TO INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND WHAT ELEMENTS IN PRESENT PROCEDURE REQUIRE MOST URGENT CHANGES TO FACILITATE THIS PROCESS? AND (D) HOW CAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MORE EFFECTIVELY BRING NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION TO ATTENTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY?

THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS, ESPECIALLY WORLD BANK, REGIONAL BANKS, IFAD, AND UNDP COULD BE ASKED BY WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO ADDRESS THESE SAME ISSUES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROPRIATE FORUM OF THEIR CHOOSING, POSSIBLY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. NEW INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS COULD BE ASKED TO JOIN IN THIS EFFORT.

27. COUNCIL COULD REQUEST BOTH BILATERAL AGENCIES THROUGH DAC, WORKING PARTIES THROUGH OTHER APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS, AND MAJOR INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS, TO PRESENT THEIR PRELIMINARY FINDINGS TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AT ITS FIFTH SESSION. TO FACILITATE THIS, COUNCIL COULD REQUEST ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ITS BUREAU, AND ITS SECRETARIAT TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES ON THESE PROPOSALS.

28. WHILE THESE DISCUSSIONS AT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL ARE TAKING PLACE, COUNCIL SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER SIMULTANEOUSLY MORE DIRECT ACTION ON THESE ISSUES IN A SELECTED NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS EFFORT NEEDS TO BE INITIATED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES BUT MUST ALSO COMBINE THE CAPACITY OF SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SOME OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO SUPPORT IT. ACTIONS AT COUNTRY LEVEL MIGHT TAKE AS STARTING POINT THE FOOD AND NUTRITION INVESTMENT STRATEGIES THAT WERE COMMENCED UNDER AUSPICES OF CGFPI. COUNTRIES WHICH PRESENTED PRELIMINARY STRATEGIES WERE BANGLADESH, HONDURAS, SENEGAL, AND SUDAN. IN LIGHT OF DECISION TO DISBAND CGFPI, DECISIONS OF AGENCIES--FAO, WORLD BANK, AND UNDP--TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF THESE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND OFFER OF SOME GOVERNMENTS--FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, USA, AND UK--TO FURTHER IMPROVE SUCH STRATEGIES THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, A SPECIAL EFFORT MIGHT BE MOUNTED BY SOME OR ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES. LIMITED NUMBER OF OTHER DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MIGHT JOIN IN UNDERTAKING, BUT NUMBER SHOULD BE LIMITED AT OUTSET SO GROUPS COULD ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO SPECIFIC QUESTION OF HOW FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION

IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS CAN BE RAPIDLY AND EFFICIENTLY
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ACCELERATED AND ASSURED OF INVESTMENT SUPPORT IN SPECIFIC
COUNTRIES. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, ITS
SECRETARIAT, AND ITS BUREAU COULD BE ASKED TO CONSULT WITH
SELECTED COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES TO DETERMINE HOW THIS EFFORT
MIGHT EFFECTIVELY BE GOTTEN UNDERWAY. FIRST RESULTS OF THIS
UNDERTAKING COULD ALSO BE PRESENTED TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AT
FIFTH SESSION.

PROPOSED ACTION FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

29. RECOGNIZING THAT SPECIAL MEASURES ARE REQUIRED TO RAISE
PRIORITY FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT GLOBAL AND SPECIFIC COUNTRY LEVELS
IN ORDER TO MOBILIZE LARGER AMOUNTS OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
AND HIGHER DEGREE OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT IF GOALS OF
WFC ARE TO BE MET IN FORSEEABLE FUTURE, COUNCIL MAY WISH
TO CONSIDER:

(A) RECOMMENDING TO BILATERAL AGENCIES AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS
THAT THEY ADDRESS ISSUES INVOLVED ON AN URGENT BASIS WITHIN
DAC AND REPORT PRELIMINARY FINDINGS TO WFC;

(B) RECOMMENDING THAT FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND INCLUDING OTHERS
WHERE APPROPRIATE, WORKING GROUPS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE FORMED
TO ADDRESS THESE SAME ISSUES UTILIZING SUPPORT AND FACILITIES OF
ECOSOC REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS OR OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND REPORT THEIR PRELIMINARY FINDINGS TO WFC;

(C) RECOMMENDING TO FAO, WORLD BANK, UNDP, IFAD, AND REGIONAL
BANKS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE LENDING INSTITUTIONS,
THAT THEY ADDRESS ISSUES INVOLVED AND REPORT FINDINGS TO WFC;

(C) RECOMMENDING THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THESE GLOBAL AND
REGIONAL UNDERTAKINGS, A SELECTED NUMBER OF DEVELOPING AND
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES UNDERTAKE TO
DETERMINE HOW FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT CAN BE
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RAPIDLY ACCELERATED AND RECEIVE ADEQUATE INVESTMENT AND POLICY
SUPPORT IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPECIFIC COUNTRIES. END TEXT. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME07065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780165-0334
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780449/aaaabpgo.tel
Line Count: 275
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 394d88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ROME 6696
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2943121
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FOURTH SESSION
TAGS: AORG, OCON, IT, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/394d88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014